GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6415
ANSWERED ON:12.04.2017
Indus Water Treaty
Ashok Kumar Shri K.

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank has urged India and Pakistan to agree to mediation on how to proceed on the dispute over two hydropower dam projects in Jammu and Kashmir and if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether the World Bank which is a signatory to the Indus Water Treaty 1960 was favouring Pakistan by going ahead with an arbitration process and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
[GEN. (DR) V. K. SINGH (RETD)]

(a) & (b) The Government's consistent position has been that it remains committed to addressing all matters within the Indus Waters Treaty's purview bilaterally with Pakistan through appropriate mechanisms in accordance with the Treaty.

On November 10, 2016 India had pointed out the legal untenability of the World Bank launching two simultaneous processes for appointment of a Neutral Expert- requested by India, and establishment of a Court of Arbitration-requested by Pakistan on Kishenganga and Ratle Hydro-Electric projects.

On December 12, 2016, the Bank conveyed its decision to halt both the processes. World Bank has engaged both India and Pakistan in the matter.

India has conveyed to the World Bank that it is in the interest of all parties to ensure workability of the Treaty and its time tested mechanisms.
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